

# BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

January 13, 2016

Town Hall

Chairman Kenneth Picard; Selectman Robert J. Fleming; Selectman James Brochu; Town Manager, Blythe C. Robinson; Executive Assistant, Sandra Hakala

Chairman Picard called the meeting to order at 7:15pm. The Board of Selectmen met jointly to discuss the FY 2016/2017 budget strategy and to prioritize the large projects in the FY 2017/2022 Capital Improvement Plan with the Finance Committee.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **FY 2016/2017 Budget Strategy with the Finance Committee**

The Selectmen relayed to the Finance Committee their intentions are to take a conservative approach to this year's budget to relieve the burden on taxpayers. Selectmen Fleming would like to at least aim for a level-funded budget yet recognizing that mostly likely that was not achievable. The passage of a \$1.4 million override for the school district translated to an additional \$1.39 per thousand to taxpayers. Chairman Picard is not a proponent of a zero increase on the town side because whatever headway that has been made is lost. The Selectmen will work on finding a balance with some understanding for the tax payer because of the huge hit with the override.

John Calianos of the Finance Committee said that although Selectmen do not want to raise taxes, "anything less than two and a half (percent) may be a reduction," in revenue, taking into account negotiated wages and the expected increase in town health insurance costs.

All agreed that the biggest drivers impacting the budget are the request from the school district. It was reported the district would be requesting between 1-2%.

The Selectmen would like to target taxes from new growth in town this year to build stabilization accounts, and use the standard tax base for the operational budget. Chairman Picard noted that traditionally the Town has used the operational budget to fund equipment. He would like to explore managing and expending from capitalization accounts.

### **Discuss FY 2017/2022 Capital Improvement Plan Priority of Large Projects**

The Town Manager Blythe Robinson is planning the capital improvement plan so that large capital projects are spread out over the next several years as to not significantly increase a budget for any given year. The Finance Committee will meet with the Capital Budget Committee to ascertain the debt structure so capital improvements can be prioritized. Road repairs and the DPW's 25K design project were potentially priorities.

John Calianos said that the group appeared "all on the same page that we want to be as conservative as possible with as minimal amount of increase in budget as possible." The group agreed to sit down and meet again after obtaining facts and figures from various committees.

### **Motion to Open the Warrant for a Special Town Meeting**

A STM needs to be scheduled in order to fully fund the union contract settlement with the Fire union (2% COLA this year and each of the next two years). With that settlement in hand it is

43 expected that all four contracts will settle at that amount as well. A 1% COLA was budgeted at  
44 the November STM thus the same needs to be appropriated again.

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46 ***Motion #1:*** Motion made by Selectman Fleming to open the warrant for a STM to be held on  
47 March 3, 2016

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49 Second: Selectman Brochu, Unanimous Chairman Picard.

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51 ***Library/COA Feasibility Committee Update***

52 The Library/COA Feasibility Committee held a meeting on Monday night where a discussion  
53 ensued on the costs/benefits and support for stand-alone library vs. joint library/COA facility.  
54 Selectman Fleming relayed to the others that although he was not in attendance, it was decided  
55 among those present that at the next Library/COA Feasibility Committee meeting a vote be taken  
56 to recommend to the Trustees and Selectmen to move forward on a stand-alone or joint building  
57 using MBLC money or a building that is not grant eligible. The committee determined that the  
58 building they were proposing, a combined building that satisfies the needs of both the library and  
59 the COA, cannot be built for a reasonable cost without the MBLA grant. They also discussed  
60 bringing joint facility to Annual Town Meeting and, if not supported, a stand-alone facility to a  
61 subsequent town meeting.

62  
63 The Selectmen agreed to attend the next Library/COA Feasibility Committee meeting to clarify  
64 their position in the project and what they would support. They expressed concern that the  
65 intent of the joint committee had shifted and will communicate their position on the project and  
66 the decision processes at their next meeting. Selectman Fleming will contact the Chair to request  
67 a place on the agenda.

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70 ***ADJOURN MEETING***

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72 ***Motion #2:*** At 8:30pm motion was made by Selectman Fleming to adjourn the regular meeting.

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74 Second: Selectmen Brochu, Unanimous Chairman Picard.

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77 Respectfully submitted,

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80 Sandra Hakala  
81 Executive Assistant